

Blind Pony Lake Conservation Area

About This Area

Blind Pony Lake Conservation Area is on Route ZZ in Saline County, approximately 6.5 miles northeast of the Highway 127/Interstate 70 junction at Sweet Springs.

The 2,207 acre area is a multiple-use facility, which includes a 195-acre lake, a warm water fish hatchery and more than 1,800 acres of land devoted to wildlife.

Initial land acquisition for the area occurred in 1966 and included eight individual tracts. Since that time, 10 additional tracts have been added.

The area was named after the Blind Pony Community that once existed here. Several stories are told about how that community got its name. The one most commonly accepted is that the poor freed slaves that settled here after the Civil war, farmed with blind horses, because they could buy them for little money. Thus the vicinity came to be known as Blind Pony.

This fish hatchery is responsible for providing fish for stocking both public and private waters.

Techniques for the production of such hard-to-rear species as paddlefish, lake sturgeon and Niangua darters were developed at this facility. Culture techniques for the federally-endangered pallid sturgeon are currently being developed here.

Other species produced at this facility include largemouth bass, walleye, channel catfish, blue catfish, bluegill, hybrid sunfish and bullheads.

Disabled-accessible user facilities at the facility include a fishing pier and privy.

Things to Do

- Hunting. The area offers good hunting opportunities for dove, quail, rabbits, squirrels and deer.
- Fishing. The lake is stocked with largemouth bass, redear sunfish, blue catfish, channel catfish and bluegill.

Cromley Pond, at the north end of the area, is a designated Kids' Fishing Pond and is restricted to children under the age of 16.

- Hiking. No trails are identified or maintained,

but existing field roads and mowed trails provide hiking opportunities.

- Nature study and birdwatching.
- Outdoor photography.
- Picnicking.
- Frogging.

Rules and Regulations

Area hours: Open daily from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. Closed to all public activity from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

- No littering. Waste containers may be used only for disposal of trash generated on area.
- No fireworks.
- No open fires except in designated areas.
- No free-running pets. Dogs must be leashed or confined when not being trained or used for hunting.
- Destroying, cutting or removing vegetation is prohibited. Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms and wild greens may be taken for personal consumption only.
- Motor vehicles are restricted to surfaced roadways and parking areas.
- Horseback riding is permitted only on roads open to vehicles or by special-use permit.
- No camping permitted.
- Bicycles are allowed only on roads open to vehicles.
- No target shooting allowed.
- Swimming, scuba diving, water skiing, sailboarding and skateboarding are not allowed.

Fishing and Boating:

Fishing is permitted under the following special regulations:

- Only poles or rods with attached lines may be used, and not more than three poles or rods may be used by any one person.
- Each angler must keep their fish separate or distinctly identifiable from those taken or possessed by another.
- Blind Pony Lake Conservation Area limits are one largemouth bass, four channel catfish or blue catfish combined and 30 crappie. Statewide limits on all other fish up to twenty (20) in the aggregate.

All black bass less than 20 inches in total length and all channel catfish and blue catfish less than 15 inches in total length must be returned to



the water unharmed immediately after being caught.

Black bass less than 20 inches in total length and channel and blue catfish less than 15 inches in total length, may not be possessed on the banks or waters of Blind Pony Lake.

Heads and tails of creel bass, channel catfish and blue catfish must remain attached while on the banks or waters of Blind Pony Lake or until checked by an agent of the Conservation Department.

- Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken during the statewide season only by hand, handnet, gig, longbow or hook and line and only on waters open to fishing.
- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited on all impounded waters and their discharge channels.
- Boats are available for fishing only for a fee of \$5 per day. Reservations will not be accepted in advance.
- Privately-owned boats may be used without charge, but must be removed from the water and the area at the end of each day.

- Boats must meet all requirements outlined by the Division of Water Safety. Navigation lights are required after sunset and before sunrise. An approved personal flotation device is required for each person in a boat.

- Outboard motors larger than 10 horsepower must be operated at no-wake speed.

Hunting and Trapping:

Area is open to hunting under the following special regulations:

- Hunting, except for waterfowl, bullfrogs and green frogs, is permitted under statewide regulations, except deer hunting is permitted by archery methods only.

- Only portable tree stands may be placed or used and only between Sept. 15 and Jan. 31. Each stand must be identified with the name and address of the owner and must be removed from the area by Feb. 1. Use of nails or other materials that would damage the tree is prohibited.

- Trapping of furbearers allowed only with a special use permit.

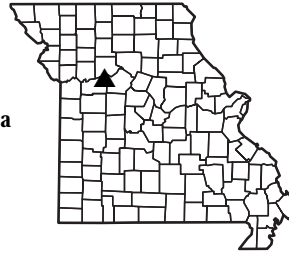
(Regulations are from the Wildlife Code of Missouri and selected statutes of the State of Missouri. Special area regulations are from Provision 3CSR 10-4.115 of the Wildlife Code. Free copies of the Wildlife Code and Special Area Regulations are available from the Conservation Department.)

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 18th and C Street NW, Washington D.C. 20240.



This conservation area was acquired in part through the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Blind Pony Lake
Conservation Area



Welcome

Missouri is a state rich in history, folklore and natural resources. The Conservation Department encourages you to visit, use and enjoy this area and other Department areas.

Land surrounding Blind Pony Lake Conservation Area belongs to private landowners. The boundaries adjoining private property are clearly marked. Please respect landowners' rights with these simple courtesies: obtain permission before going on private property, pick up all litter, be careful with fire, do not damage property, practice safe hunting.

Nearby Department Areas:

Ralph and Martha Perry Memorial Conservation Area
Marshall Junction Conservation Area
Grand Pass Conservation Area
Malta Bend Community Lake

For local information, contact:

Blind Pony Lake Conservation Area
Missouri Department of Conservation
Rural Route 2, Box 17
Sweet Springs, MO 65351
660/335-4531

Your comments and suggestions regarding area facilities and management are welcome.

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Missouri Department of
CONSERVATION

